

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application.

The Examiner contends that the application includes three distinct inventions, as follows:

I. Claims 1-6, drawn to a method for producing a pharmaceutical piston stopper, classified in class 264, subclass 320.

II. Claims 7-14, drawn to a device for producing pharmaceutical piston stoppers, classified in class 425, subclass 406.

III. Claims 15-20, drawn to a pharmaceutical piston stopper, classified in class 604, subclass 218.

The Examiner has required election of a single invention for prosecution on the merits.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, Applicant hereby elects invention III directed to claims 15-20. The foregoing election is made without traverse. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the non-elected inventions and claims in a divisional application.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

The present application is a continuation application of prior International application No. PCT/EP02/04831, filed May 2, 2002. The present application claims foreign priority to German Application No. 101 22 959.3, filed May 11, 2001. A certified copy of the above-listed German Application was filed with the instant application, as indicated on the application transmittal sheet submitted with the instant application. The Examiner failed to acknowledge the present application's claim for foreign priority to the foreign application on the Office Action Summary sheet as well as receipt of the certified copy of the priority application. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge the claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the German Application in the present application in any subsequent response.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Response to Election Requirement and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 15-20, is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Date)

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